

REMARKS

Claims 9-13 and 16-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 9, 16 and 18 are amended to recite "RIP data of the RIP processing that identifies an item of the RIP processing executed on the image data", and new claims 23-25 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 9, 16 and 18 can be found, for example, at page 69, lines 15-23 (items of RIP processing), and at page 71, lines 17-23 (charging for individual items of RIP processing) of the specification as filed. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Dhingra in the April 29, 2009 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 9-13 and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0196452 to Komiya in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0020951 to Minowa et al. (Minowa). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Regarding independent claims 9, 16 and 18, combining the applied references fails to result in "RIP data of the RIP processing that identifies an item of the RIP processing executed on the image data" wherein "a first accounting amount calculation unit that calculates a first accounting amount by using the RIP data of the RIP processing", as recited in claim 9 and similarly recited in claims 16 and 18. As agreed at the personal interview, the combination of Minowa and Komiya does not disclose these features.

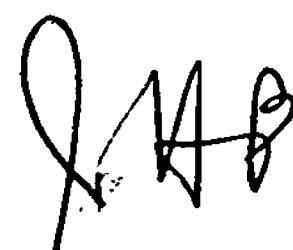
Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Regarding new claims 23-25, combining the applied references fails to result in "wherein the first accounting amount includes costs of image processing but not including costs of image formation" because, as agreed at the personal interview, Minowa discloses accounting for the costs of coloring inks used, which is a cost of image formation.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: May 11, 2009

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